

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-11 COME-00 INT-05 GSA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 /084 R

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EA/IMS:WSSHEPARD

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, EPAP, ETRD, MY

SUBJECT: TIN - MEETING WITH MALAYSIAN CHARGE, MARCH 10, 1976.

REF: THIGPEN-POLIK TELECON, MARCH 10, 1976.

1. MALAYSIAN EMBASSY CALLED MARCH 10 AND MADE APPOINTMENT FOR MALAYSIAN CHARGE KARIM TO SEE DEPTOFFS SAME DAY ON UNANNOUNCED SUBJECT.

2. WHEN KARIM ARRIVED HE SAID HE WISHED TO DISCUSS US SIGNING AND RATIFICATION OF FIFTH INTERNATIONAL TIN AGREEMENT (ITA). DEPTOFFS INFORMED KARIM US WILL SIGN ITA MARCH 11, AND THAT DEPARTMENT BELIEVES SENATE WILL GIVE ITS ADVICE AND CONSENT TO RATIFICATION OF US MEMBER-
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SHIP IN ITA. KARIM EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OVER NEWS OF

IMMINENT US SIGNING OF ITA.

3. FOR LONDON: KARIM THEN RAISED ITC CHAIRMANSHIP ISSUE. DEPTOFF INFORMED KARIM THAT OUR REPORTS FROM LONDON INDICATED ISSUE HAD BECOME A CHARGED ONE BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS, WITH FAIRLY SHARP LINES DRAWN BETWEEN TWO GROUPS. DEPTOFF EXPRESSED VIEW THAT POLITICIZATION OF

"ALLEN ISSUE" COULD LEAD TO POTENTIAL PROBLEMS WHEN ITA REACHED SENATE, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ISSUE COULD BE DEPOLITICIZED. KARIM AGREED ON NEED TO DEPOLITICIZE ITC CHAIRMANSHIP ISSUE, BUT INDICATED THAT GOM WAS STANDING FIRM ON LAI CANDIDACY. DEPTOFF NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME INFORMAL CORRIDOR DISCUSSION IN LONDON RE POSSIBILITY OF COMPROMISE SOLUTION WHEREBY ALLEN WOULD ASSUME CHAIRMANSHIP OF ITC UNDER FIFTH ITA, WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT HE WOULD RELINQUISH POSITION AFTER A YEAR OR EIGHTEEN MONTHS. KARIM OFFERED NO COMMENTS RE THIS POSSIBILITY. IN RESPONSE TO KARIM'S QUESTION RE USG SUPPORT FOR LAI, DEPTOFFS REPLIED THAT USG HAD NOT YET REACHED A DECISION ON SUPPORTING A CANDIDATE FOR CHAIRMANSHIP, BUT THAT IT WOULD GIVE LAI'S CANDIDACY EVERY CONSIDERATION. THEY INFORMED KARIM THAT A DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO THIS EFFECT WOULD SHORTLY BE SENT TO MALAYSIAN EMBASSY IN RESPONSE TO GOM'S FEBRUARY 18 NOTE ANNOUNCING LAI CANDIDACY AND REQUESTING USG SUPPORT. KISSINGER

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